

## **ARTICLE 39. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICES**

39.1. Department of Veterans' Services. The Town shall have a Department of Veterans' Services.

39.2. General Duties. The Department shall have the powers and duties of departments of veterans' services under G.L. c. 115. These include advising and assisting veterans and their dependents in procuring veterans' benefits.

39.3. Director. The officer in charge of the Department shall be known as the Director of Veterans' Services. The Director shall be a veteran and shall be appointed by the Executive Director. (*Amended ATM 2018.*)

39.4. Advisory Board. The Department may have an unpaid advisory board consisting of five residents to be appointed by the Select Board in accordance with the rules and regulations promulgated by the Massachusetts Department of Veterans' Services. The term of office on the Board shall be three years commencing on July 1.

39.5. Veterans' Grave Officer. The Select Board shall appoint a resident, as a veterans' grave officer for a term not to exceed five years. The veterans' graves officer shall be a veteran as defined by M.G.L. c. 4, § 7. The officer shall cause every veteran's grave within the Town to be suitably kept and cared for. (*Amended ATM 2018 and ATM 2024.*)

39.6. Budget. The Department shall prepare an annual budget. The budget is subject to approval by the Select Board. The Select Board is responsible for presenting the budget to the Advisory Committee and for presenting the motion for the budget appropriation to Town Meeting.

39.7 General Provisions. The Department shall also be governed by the applicable provisions of Articles 2 through 7 of these bylaws and other provisions of these bylaws applicable generally to all Boards, except as it is specifically directed by law or a provision of these bylaws to act otherwise.